

Thirdly, to give training to labour force and mining personnel in the improved techniques. There are sophisticated mine equipments being used by other countries.

It is also to improve quality of coal through beneficiation of coal through modern technology.

The Joint Group is working with seven countries, U.S.S.R, Poland, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and Australia.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA: In the answer, it has been said that one of the Projects which is being undertaken with the help of Russia is the modernisation of Pathardih washery of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. It is well known that for several years now, the three washeries under BCCL are running at a loss. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this modernisation project which has been mentioned here is likely to be implemented in the near future. How soon is it likely to be implemented and whether it is going to be given over to the Steel Authority?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: This was worked upon by a Working Group. We need a lot of washeries and improved washeries to have good quality of coal. So far as BCCL washeries are concerned, a Group went into it. We discussed with the Steel Authority to take it over and run it properly. But it has been reported that at present they are not able to do so. But we have sent our request.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA: What about the Committee's recommendation?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The Committee recommended that it should be set up speedily their comments/views. The report has been sent to the Steel Department to find out whether they are willing to do it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Have they reacted to the recommendation or not?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Not yet.

[*Translation*]

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

*227 **SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR**

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost incurred for creating per hectare irrigation capacity through the minor projects is less as compared to the major and medium projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to encourage minor irrigation projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) the targets fixed for major, medium and minor projects separately for creating irrigation capacity during the said Plan; and

(e) the total amount likely to be spent on these projects under the above three categories?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGEN). : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Considering only the direct investment, the Minor Irrigation schemes may appear to be cheaper on cost per hectare basis as compared to Major & Medium projects. However, if the investment cost to energise the tubewells/pumpsets in Minor irrigation schemes and O & M costs are taken into account, the Minor Schemes do not prove less costly on cost per hectare basis than Major & Medium projects. Moreover, the useful life of Major & Medium projects is longer than the minor schemes and they are more reliable from water availability point of view. They also provide water for two or three crops a year as compared to one crop only for Minor irrigation schemes.

(c) The main elements of the strategy for the Minor irrigation during the Eighth Five Year Plan inter-alia include (i) priority for speedy completion of large number of ongoing surface water Minor irrigation schemes, (ii) encouragement to Minor surface water lift irrigation schemes both individually and community owned; (iii) encouragement to repair and improvement of Minor irrigation tanks as well as the development of new works as part of the integrated micro development projects, (iv)

emphasis on conjunctive use of surface and ground water, (v) priority to the installation of sprinkler/drip irrigation system in water scarce and drought prone areas, (vi) improvement in the utilisation of public tubewells and their rehabilitation and (vii) discouragement of over exploitation of water.

(d) The VIII Five Year Plan (1992—97) envisages creation of additional irrigation potential to the extent of 5.09 and 10.7 million hectares through Major & Medium surface water irrigation projects and Minor Irrigation schemes respectively in the country.

(e) During the VIII Plan period, Rs. 22415 crores and Rs. 5977 crores have been allocated to Major & Medium Irrigation projects and Minor Irrigation schemes respectively. Besides, the Minor Irrigation schemes are eligible to get institutional funding besides plan funds.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question it has been clarified that the minor irrigation projects may be cheaper than the major and medium projects for creating per hectare irrigation facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is good one. you should ask it in the form of supplementary question. Otherwise, the whole thing will be mess up in speech.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the the Government not received the exact statistics as yet that the minor projects are cheaper on cost than the major and medium projects. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second significant plus point of these minor projects is that water-level of nearly wells rises automatically. Should we not include this plus point in it and prove it more useful? Should we not keep it in our priority list?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: As you have said, the hon. Member's question is a very good question.

MR. SPEAKER: The benefit you get by recharging the sub-soil store also should be counted. It is a good question.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: *Cost-wise, in one way it is 'yes' and in one way it is 'no'. I would like to explain.*

MR. SPEAKER: If the question is good, do not disturb the hon. Minister. Let him answer.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: Major and medium project cost may range per hectare from Rs. 23,000/- to Rs. 45,000/-.

This is so in the case of major and medium projects. In the case of minor projects, the per hectare cost may range from Rs. 22,500 to Rs. 53,000/- Why I am saying 'yes' and 'no' is that in the case of the major and medium projects, the long-term benefits are more and at the same time it is capital intensive because in the case of the major and medium projects, the irrigation facilities which have been created may continue from 100 years to 200 years. But in the case of minor irrigation projects, the cost of creation of the facility on the face of it may be less. For example, for the tube-wells, the power has to be there and the power generation cost part of it is not counted on the face value of it. That is why it appears that it is much less costlier. It is less costlier than the medium and the major projects. But, if you count the power generation, the subsidy, the transmission aspect, the tube-wells, machines, equipment, it all piles up and ultimately its longevity is only 10—15 years. So, in one way, it is 'no' and in one way, it is 'yes'. That is what I wanted to explain.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good reply.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: About the sub-soil, if I may elucidate a little more, we have about 400 million cubic kms. of water resources in the country every year in the form of rains, snows etc. Out of that, almost 3000 million cubic kms. of water only flows but the rest of about 1000 million cubic kms. water goes down as sub-soil and again it trickles down and flows along with the streams and rivers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a large country. There are big rivers for major projects and small rivers for minor projects separately. Will the Government give priority to the minor irrigation projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan keeping in view the increasing water level in small rivers and nullahs. In addition to that the second question

is whether the Government would like to invite the cooperation of farmers' organisations in water management?

[English]

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: About the second part, the reply is certainly 'yes'. About the first part, I would like to express that in the Eighth Five Year Plan, our outlay on major and medium projects is Rs. 22,414.53 crores and in the case of minor projects inclusive of institutional financing it is Rs. 11,096.26 crores. Therefore, the Government is very careful in planning. It is to be working in conjunctivity because the surface water, the ground water, the major irrigation projects and the minor irrigation projects have to work in conjunctivity. Accordingly, it has been studied and worked out and this allocation has been proposed.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government have identified areas which are regularly affected by drought and if so, the names of such areas may be given. I would also like to know whether the Government are proposing to have major, medium and minor irrigation projects on a priority basis.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON: I must admit that so far as drought areas are concerned, I do not have those particulars. But as far as the second part is concerned, it is certainly, yes.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

GAS CYLINDERS

*225. **SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR**
SHRI HARIBHAI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies detected during the last two years which had been selling duplicate gas cylinders to the consumers, State-wise;

(b) the action taken against them;

(c) the source of getting duplicate gas cylinders by the agencies; and

(d) the action taken against the companies manufacturing duplicate cylinders?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b): Inspections are made by field staff of LPG marketing companies to detect circulation of spurious cylinders with the distributors and transporters, etc. However, spurious cylinders are detected mostly at the bottling plants, where they are crushed and destroyed. When transporters and distributors are found in possession of and selling or circulating spurious cylinders, warning is issued to them and a penal recovery of Rs. 1500/- per spurious cylinder is made from them. More than 350 LPG distributors have been debited with penalty on detection of spurious cylinders, during the last two years.

(c) and (d): Spurious cylinders are injected into the system by unidentified unscrupulous elements, after procuring the same from cylinder manufacturers. When approved and licensed cylinder manufacturers are found to manufacture and supply spurious cylinders, further procurement of cylinders from them by the Oil Industry is suspended and statutory approvals are withdrawn. Police action against such manufacturers and those found involved in circulation of spurious cylinders is also taken. Suspected premises are raided and offenders arrested and spurious cylinders seized. Purchase of cylinders has been suspended from nine cylinder manufacturers for involvement in manufacture/supply of spurious cylinders as follows:

1. Veejay Metal Products Pvt. Ltd., A.P.
2. Mullur Cylinders Pvt. Ltd., Belgaum.
3. Mullur Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
4. Associated Cylinder Industries Pvt. Ltd., Jammu.
5. International Cylinders Pvt. Ltd., H.P.
6. Sapphire (I) Pvt. Ltd., Rajasthan.
7. Punjab Gas Cylinders Ltd., Punjab.
8. Tirupati Cylinders Pvt. Ltd., U. P.
9. Everest Cylinders Pvt. Ltd., U. P.

[English]

RU-486

*226. **SHRI C. SREENIVASAN**
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new anti-abortion pill, RU-486, has successfully been tested;